

**ABSTRACT**

The present invention provides novel polypeptides, termed PTMAX polypeptides, as well as polynucleotides encoding PTMAX polypeptides and antibodies that immunospecifically bind to PTMAX or a derivative, variant, mutant, or fragment of the PTMAX polypeptide, polynucleotide or antibody. The invention additionally provides methods in which the PTMAX polypeptide, polynucleotide and antibody are used in detection and treatment of a broad range of pathological states, as well as to other uses.

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